

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 13, 16 and 17, rewrite claims 2-6, 8-12, 14-15 and 18-19 and add new claims 20-37 as follows.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method of producing brushes comprising the steps of
- providing brush bodies of a plastic material, said brush bodies each having an attachment surface portion,
- providing plates of a plastic material, said plates each having tufts of brush bristles attached thereto and projecting from a first face,
- connecting each plate to the attachment surface portion of one of the brush bodies by ultrasonic welding;
wherein said plates each have a peripheral rim on a second face opposite the first face, said peripheral rim defining an edge, and said plate contacting said attachment surface along said edge and said edge acting as an energy concentrator. The method of claim 1, wherein said edge tapers tapering toward said attachment surface portion, thus defining a tapered end of said peripheral rim.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said brush bodies are provided with a recess and said attachment surface portion is located at the bottom of the recess.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[3]] 2, wherein said edge engages said attachment surface portion by its tapered end and ~~the~~ a weld joint is produced at said attachment surface portion.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein an extension projecting beyond said recess of said brush ~~body~~ bodies is formed at said peripheral rim of said ~~platelet~~ plate.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said extension is made to contact a surface area of said brush ~~body~~ bodies surrounding said recess.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said extension is provided with an edge which tapers toward said brush body and acts as an energy concentrator in ultrasonic welding.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said extension is inserted in a stepped widened portion of said recess in said brush ~~body~~ bodies.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein said extension is formed in such a way that it protrudes as far as into a transition region of said brush ~~body~~ bodies which corresponds to the neck piece of a toothbrush.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein a pressing means is provided for pressing said ~~platelet~~ plate against said brush body during the ultrasonic welding.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein a gap left between said ~~platelet~~ plate and said brush body is closed by a ~~plasties~~ plastic mass.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 2, wherein a gap left between said ~~platelet~~ plate and said brush body is closed by molding in an injection mold.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of producing brushes comprising the steps of
- providing brush bodies of a plastic material, said brush bodies each having
an attachment surface portion,
- providing plates of a plastic material, said plates each having tufts of brush
bristles attached thereto and projecting from a first face,
- providing means for applying an adhesive in order to connect said plates
to said attachment surface portions of said brush bodies by gluing;
wherein said brush bodies and said plates are made of the same plastic material,
said brush bodies are provided with a recess in which the plate is inserted to fit
and said attachment surface portion is located at the bottom of said recess,
The method of claim 1, wherein an injection mold is provided in which part of
said brush body with said platelet plate inserted therein is provided for molding
around at least the peripheral region of said platelet plate.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[13]]~~14, wherein an injection mold is provided in which part of said brush body with said ~~platelet~~ plate inserted therein is provided for molding around at least the peripheral region of said platelet.

16. – 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~2, wherein said brush bodies are provided with a recess having a peripheral wall converging obliquely toward the center of said ~~recess interior~~, in that said ~~platelet~~ plate has a peripheral wall having a shape matching the shape ~~of said peripheral wall of said recess and is fittingly inserted in said recess, and in that said~~ ~~platelet~~ plate is attached in said recess by ultrasonic welding or by means of an adhesive.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 2, wherein said brush bodies and said ~~platelets~~ plates are made of the same ~~plastics~~ plastic material.

Please add the following new claims 20-37:

20. (New) A method of producing a brush comprising the steps of:

- providing a brush body of a plastic material, said brush body having an attachment surface portion;
- providing a plate of a plastic material, said plate having tufts of brush bristles attached thereto and projecting from a first face;
- connecting said plate to said attachment surface portion of said brush body by ultrasonic welding;

wherein said plate has a second face opposite said first face, said plate having a circumferential rim projecting from said second face and defining an edge, and said plate contacting said attachment surface portion along said edge so that a gap is formed between said attachment surface portion of said brush body and said second face of said plate, said edge acting as an energy concentrator.

21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said edge tapers toward said attachment surface portion, thus defining a tapered end of said circumferential rim.

22. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said brush body is provided with a recess and said attachment surface portion is located at the bottom of said recess.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said edge engages said attachment surface portion by its tapered end and a weld joint is produced at said attachment surface portion.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein an extension projecting beyond said recess of said brush body is formed at said circumferential rim of said plate.

25. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said extension is made to contact a surface area of said brush body surrounding said recess.

26. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said extension is provided with an edge which tapers toward said brush body and acts as an energy concentrator in ultrasonic welding.

27. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said extension is inserted in a stepped widened portion of said recess in said brush body.

28. (New) The method of claim 25, wherein said extension is formed in such a way that it protrudes as far as into a transition region of said brush body which corresponds to the neck piece of a toothbrush.

29. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein a pressing means is provided for pressing said plate against said brush body during the ultrasonic welding.

30. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein a gap left between said plate and said brush body is closed by a plastic mass.

31. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein a gap left between said plate and said brush body is closed by molding in an injection mold.

32. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein an injection mold is provided in which part of said brush body with said plate inserted therein is provided for molding around at least the peripheral region of said plate.

33. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein an ultrasonic welding means for performing the ultrasonic welding is provided in combination with a means for applying an adhesive.

34. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said brush body is provided with a recess having a peripheral wall converging obliquely toward the center of said recess, in that said plate has a peripheral wall having a shape matching the shape of said peripheral wall of said recess and is fittingly inserted in said recess, and in that said plate is attached in said recess by ultrasonic welding or by means of an adhesive.

35. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said brush body and said plate are made of the same plastic material.

36. (New) A method of producing a brush comprising the steps of:

- providing a brush body of a plastic material, said brush body having an attachment surface portion,
- providing a plate of plastic material, said plate having tufts of brush bristles attached thereto and projecting from a first face,
- providing means for applying an adhesive in order to connect said plate to said attachment surface portion of said brush body by gluing,

wherein said brush body and said plate are made of the same plastic material, said brush body being provided with a recess in which said plate is inserted to fit and said attachment surface portion being located at the bottom of said recess, said plate having a second face opposite said first face, said plate having a circumferential rim projecting from said second face and defining an edge, and said plate contacting said attachment surface portion along said edge so that a gap is formed between said attachment surface portion of said brush body and said second face of said plate.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein an injection mold is provided in which part of said brush body with said plate inserted therein is provided for molding around at least the peripheral region of said plate.